

From: Praedor
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/17/01 7:50am
Subject: You failed the users and the overall industry

I am strongly disappointed in the outcome of the case against the clearly guilty Microsoft. You caved and gave them everything, extracting virtually nothing. Your "settlement" doesn't prevent Microsoft from continuing business as usual.

They are free to bundle to their hearts content, a weapon to use against ANY potential competitor. They are free to continue trying to turn the internet into a Microsoft-net via closed, propriatory protocols and by altering or adding to fully open standards.

You all skipped over the meat and gave them a very useful and stern "Stop it, OK?" Brilliant. And the punishment: Do not violate the new consent decree like you have violated ALL other such beasts in the past or we will make sure you are still "burdened" with the decree for 5 more years so you can continue to violate and ignore it.

Your agreement needs to go further. Microsoft must be enjoined from producing ANY new communication protocols without fully disclosing/publishing them for general use. Microsoft must be enjoined from modifying ANY standard, general communication protocol already existing without *first FULLY* disclosing the nature of the modifications so that anyone else who might wish to interoperate with Microsoft systems are free to do so - no restrictions. All Microsoft programming APIs must be fully released and documented so any software maker can create competitive or interoperating applications that fully work as they should on Microsoft operating systems. Finally, Microsoft must be prevented from making ANY restrictive licensing deals with ANY company that in any way hinders competitors from gaining full access to users or systems.